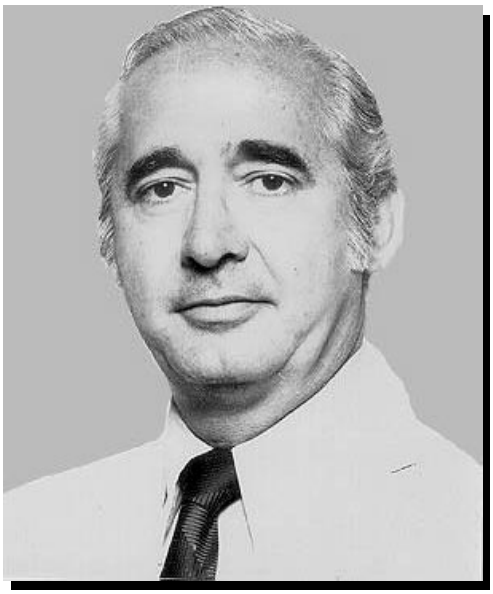
Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame

1978 Inductees



Lieutenant Colonel Onofrio P. Brunowas

Lieutenant Colonel Onofrio P. Bruno was born on September 5, 1917. He entered active duty as an officer in 1940 and served during World War II until 1946. He was in the Army Reserves for 28 years attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He developed and directed a program for the surveillance of the Army's worldwide ammunition stockpile for over three decades while assigned to the U.S. Army Ballistic Research Laboratory. At the U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity (AMSAA), he was responsible for directing and participating in many critical systems-analysis and operations-research studies that have significantly influenced many major ordnance systems. He developed a detailed plan for the accomplishment of an expanded mission of increased responsibilities for the testing, design, and evaluation of materiel under development for other Department of Defense agencies. Drawing upon his years of experience, he assisted in the development of balanced teams to address this new mission for more than 60 major Army systems. By timely exposure of technical problems, sufficient management emphasis was obtained to ensure that corrections to problems found were incorporated into the system early in the development cycle. As a result, it has been possible to realize major savings in test costs and to reduce development time by eliminating unnecessary testing. He also served prominently in NATO activities by establishing many nationally and internationally accepted procedures for determining the reliability and accuracy of weapons fire. Colonel Bruno died on January 3, 1977.

Major General Richard C. Coupland

Major General Richard C. Coupland was born in West Point, Virginia on December 14, 1893 and graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1915. His long and distinguished service was significant to the development and supply of ordnance materiel for the Armed Forces. He participated in some of the early post-World War II experimental work of the Ordnance Department while stationed at the Springfield Armory, Springfield, Massachusetts. He had much to do with the progress of aircraft armament in the period between the First and Second World Wars. He was personally responsible for originating a series of tests on all sizes of demolition bombs to determine their characteristics for low-altitude bombing. These tests, carried out under his guidance, resulted in the development and adoption of a bomb and fuzes which successfully met the requirement of low-altitude "skip bombing." The results achieved in battle were considered phenomenal. His technical support was largely responsible for the successful development of the initial high-rate-of-fire "Gatling Gun," the forerunner to similar guns now employed throughout the Armed Forces. During World War II, his office was instrumental in the research, development, and supply of many ordnance items such as machine guns, improved cannons, ammunition, bombs, and fuzes. He also holds patents covering radio control of dynamic bodies, aircraft gun synchronizers, feed mechanisms of aircraft weapons, computer gunsights, aerial mechanisms, and various types of ammunition

Major General William M. Creasy

Major General William M. Creasy was born in North Carolina on April 26, 1905 and graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1926. His sustained outstanding performance during a 32-year military career reflects total devotion toward increasing the effectiveness of the U.S. Army and improving national security. Through his forceful and motivating leadership, the Chemical Corps accomplished new objectives in the fields of chemical, biological, and radiological (CBR) protection. He initiated an extensive CBR research and development program which, coupled with procedures successfully adapted from various civilian scientific agencies, resulted in providing modern protection for the American soldiers on a CBR battlefield. As Chief Chemical Officer of the US Army, his personal contributions and leadership had an impact upon the entire world. Under his guidance, innovations in the field of psychochemical agents and radiological defense, as well as various humanitarian benefits in medical research, were realized. He also worked closely with national and international groups and the other Armed Services to provide improved chemical offensive capabilities. His able presentations to organizations heightened the awareness of the American public concerning the realities of CBR warfare. His keen foresight and technical skills enabled him to establish the managerial and organizational elements to develop a deterrent biological warfare capability for the U.S. Army. General Creasy retired in 1958 and died on March 22, 1987.

Lieutenant General John H. Hinrichs

Lieutenant General John H. Hinrichs was born in Sandy Hook, New Jersey on July 10, 1904 and graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1928. As Chief of Ordnance from April 1958 to May 1962, he was responsible for the vertical command and control and technical direction of the extremely complex and diverse activities of the Ordnance Corps worldwide. During his tenure, the Ordnance Corps was the Army's Acquisition Manager and responsible for spending 85 percent of the Army's procurement budget on weapons and munitions. His domain included munitions storage and maintenance at ordnance depots and materiel maintenance at arsenal complexes located throughout the world. The missile weaponry of the Army made its greatest advancement in research, development, and production while he was Chief. He guided the Army's effort of microminiaturization in electronics and nuclear weapons and the development and introduction of the M48A1 tank program. He laid the groundwork for the Ordnance Corps' role in the establishment of the Supply and Maintenance Command and the Materiel Command, which were then the logistics organizations of the future. His contributions to the science of management have made a significant impact on the role of the Ordnance Corps. He truly provided outstanding leadership and professionalism. General Hinrichs retired in 1962 and died on February 13, 1990.

Mr. Kenneth T. Norris, Sr.

Mr. Kenneth T. Norris, Sr. was born on July 8, 1899 and faithfully served the Ordnance and industrial communities for over 40 years by manufacturing various types of ordnance materiel. His contributions to the technology of the movement of metals, particularly as it relates to the manufacture of cartridge cases, projectiles, and rocket motors, represent significant achievements in the production of high-volume conventional ammunition metal components. He was a disciple of design and work simplification to achieve increased product integrity with important labor and material savings. He applied his extraordinary expertise in the cold flow of metals and alloys to develop and produce high-strength, thin-walled pressure vessels in rocket and missile motor bodies. In this area alone, he became the largest individual producer of motor bodies for a wide range of programs, ranging from the 2-inch rocket to the Polaris missile motor. His intimate knowledge of press-forming, tooling, and metallurgy enabled him to participate directly in the development of new manufacturing techniques of forming alloys previously considered unworkable. He constantly sought methods for more economical production of Department of Defense requirements, and his related suggestions for design revisions resulted in substantial savings for the Government. His personal contributions to the Nation's defense serve as an example of leadership for Government and industry alike. Mr. Norris died on March 24, 1972.

Brigadier General Willis R. Slaughter

Brigadier General Willis R. Slaughter was born in Lynchburg, Virginia on August 24, 1895 and graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1917. He served the Ordnance Corps faithfully and with distinction on active duty and in retirement since 1922. His valuable contributions to the Ordnance corps and the U.S. Army include a tour of duty as Commanding General of The Ordnance Training Command, with responsibility for and control of all matters pertaining to the training of military personnel and units under the jurisdiction of the Chief of Ordnance. While commander of the training center, he simultaneously served as Commandant of The Ordnance School, to include the Ordnance Guided Missile School and several units. Under his guidance and direction, various doctrinal publications, to include tables of organization and equipment, were developed for the employment of Ordnance troops. He was the only officer to twice serve as the Ordnance School Commandant, first from 1943 to 1945, and again from 1952 to 1954. He was a pioneer in Ordnance, producing officers, enlisted personnel, and units prepared for outstanding service to the U.S. Army. After his retirement in 1954, he continued to work diligently and unrelentingly to maintain the status and reputation of the Ordnance Corps. General Slaughter died on January 2, 1981.